

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

100th Anniversary

Although the New Bedford Free Public Library was formed in 1852, the Main Library only moved into its present location on December 1, 1910. To celebrate this 100th Anniversary, the Library, with help of the Friends, will be holding a series of events.

The first is a display of 40 Norman Rockwell prints entitled "Home for the Holidays." This travelling exhibit from the Norman Rockwell Museum was the idea of Mayor Scott Lang and brought here through the generous contribution of Veolia Waters. (See page 4.)

The Library will also begin a year-long 50 Book Challenge, challenging library users to read 50 books in a year. (See page 4)

Further on, we are scheduling a day of miniature golf in the Library in March, the opening of the front doors on Pleasant Street for a day, and other events, still in the planning stages, throughout the year.

I hope you will find the time this year to visit the Main Library, if you haven't in a few years. It is one of the truly great buildings in the City with a remarkable art collection. And, as its name says, it's free.

In This Issue:

Page	Item
1	From the Top Shelf
2	From Ballots to Books
4	50 Book Challenge
4	Norman Rockwell Exhibit
5	The Hot List
6	It's Show Time!
7	What's Going On?
8	Hours & Locations
8	Writers' Group

Holiday Hours

Thursday, Nov. 11 – Closed
Thursday, Nov. 25 – Closed
Friday, Nov. 26 – Closed

Friday, Dec. 24 – Closed
Saturday, Dec. 25 – Closed
Friday, Dec. 31 – Closed
Saturday, Jan. 1 – Closed

From Ballots to Books

"Yesterday New Bedford came into its own, in the ultimate possession of the new Free Public Library within the walls of the transformed City Hall....Almost a spirit of reverence was inspired upon entering the building, and practically every one of the visitors drew a deep breath as he first stood in the rotunda...and began to realize the impressiveness of the library....it would be impossible to make use of such a building without unconsciously receiving something of educative influence and uplift from the mere association with its beauties."

New Bedford's *Morning Mercury*, December 2, 1910

When the New Bedford Free Public Library opened the mammoth bronze doors to its new Pleasant Street location on December 1, 1910, the scene, said the news accounts, was one of "sincere rejoicing on the part of all who have been eagerly awaiting the larger privileges and advantage which it offers." And it was all due to a rat.

The building that is now home to the New Bedford Free Public Library originally served as Town Hall. Its commanding Greek revival edifice of native granite, a testament to the city's economic success from the whaling industry, was designed by noted architect Russell Warren and built by Seth H. and William Ingalls between 1838 and 1839 for a total cost of \$59,800. For the next 70 years, as New Bedford evolved from a town into a city, municipal offices occupied the top floors. The bottom floor originally housed market stalls for selling produce until the vendors were removed in 1872 to make room for additional city offices.

A new chapter in the building's life began as the result of a 1906 fire that broke out during a ballot recount of a contested mayoral election. Only about 71 votes separated challenger and former Mayor Charles Ashley from incumbent Thomas Thompson (Ashley was ultimately declared the winner). The ballots were saved but the interior of City Hall was completely destroyed. The *Evening Standard* later reported that the fire inspector's report blamed the conflagration on an "unknown rat" that built a nest too near a steam pipe. The newspaper noted the "report is not to say what species of rat it was – four legged or two legged."

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City Hall on Fire, 1906

(continued from page 2)

New Bedford’s dramatic growth as a leading center for textile manufacture had by this time made the old town hall obsolete but the building itself held a special place in the hearts of the locals. Rather than tear down the historic structure, it was remodeled as a new home for the city’s public library. Reopened as the New Bedford Free Public Library on December 1, 1910, the structure boasted interior, heating, plumbing and electrical renovations costing \$275,000. The main features and elaborate detail of the 1910 work designed by architect Nat C. Smith -- white Carrara marble staircases, solid mahogany woodwork, leaded glass skylights, ceiling moldings boasting classical Greek motifs, the city seal on the brass doorplates and the open book stamped on the old doorknobs -- remain largely intact, thanks to a renovation in the 1990s aimed at restoring the library’s interiors to their former splendor.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Main Library’s Pleasant Street location, a variety of public activities and programs will be offered into the next year.



Laying the cornerstone of the new library, 1908



Damage done by fire, 1906



Reading Room reconstructed, 1910

50-Book Challenge

Can you read 50 books in a year? Chances are that you can. In fact, we’re challenging you to.

In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Main Library building, the New Bedford Free Public Library will be presenting the 50 Book Challenge. What is this challenge? All you need to do is to read 50 books within the next year. This averages 1 a week, with time to spare. To enter, you must be 18 or older.

The challenge begins on December 13, 2010 and will end on December 10, 2011.

There’s no required reading for the challenge. This isn’t English 101. You can read anything you want, as long as it’s a book, not a magazine or newspaper.

Are graphic novels OK? Sure, why not? What about ebooks or audiobooks? Of course. Children’s books? Well, no. Since this is a challenge for adults, the books chosen should be at a level no younger than young adult. Any book will do, from the most challenging literature, to a cozy mystery, to a cookbook.

We’ll have reading suggestions available throughout the year, and information about other reading lists and web sites. And you can always ask your librarian for ideas. We’re happy to help.

Registration is necessary to participate in the challenge. You can register at any New Bedford library beginning December 13. You may register only once. When you do,

you will receive a booklet in which to record your reading.

Once you’ve reached the goal, bring in your book log and you’ll receive a reward. Your name will also be entered into a drawing for larger prizes, to be held at the end of the challenge year. We trust you. If you say you’ve read 50 books, we’ll believe you. It’s on your honor.

This is a challenge, not a contest to read the most books. However, we urge you not to stop at 50 books, once you reach that point. How many more books can you read? 10? 25? The limit’s up to you. While you might go above and beyond the 50-book goal, you will only get one reward and one entry into the final drawing.

Throughout the year, we plan to have get-togethers for people to share their reading experiences. We also hope to have author lectures. At the end of the year we’ll hold a special event for all participants. Everyone’s welcome, including those who don’t quite meet the goal. Just taking part is an accomplishment.

So please join us in this challenge. It’ll be fun. You’ll have the chance to meet other readers, and you may find yourself reading more than you thought you could.

We’ll have more information in this newsletter, online at the Library’s Web site and on our blog newbedfordlibrary.blogspot.com throughout the year.

Library to Host Norman Rockwell Exhibit

During his forty-seven year affiliation with the *Saturday Evening Post*, Norman Rockwell was celebrated for his special holiday cover illustrations, which were commissioned to mark a full spectrum of annual events for an enthusiastic public, from Thanksgiving, Christmas and The New Year to Valentine’s Day and April Fool’s Day. Throughout the decades, his holiday depictions shifted in subject and style, resulting in a broad range of imagery inspired by both the past and the present.

Organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, *Norman Rockwell’s Home for the Holidays* features original *Saturday Evening Post* cover tearsheets and includes many of Norman Rockwell’s most memorable and enduring holiday images. The exhibition, which will run from December 11, 2010 through January 3, 2011, will be located on the third floor of the Main Library.



The Hot List (Upcoming Books)

These popular authors are publishing new books in the next few months. They might not be in bookstores or libraries yet, but if they are in our catalog, you can still put them on hold and be near the top of the list!



November

- Baldacci, David – *Hell’s Corner*
 - Berry, Steve – *Emperor’s Tomb*
 - Cornwell, Patricia – *Port Mortuary*
 - Cussler, Clive – *Crescent Dawn*
 - Deaver, Jeffrey – *Edge*
 - Flagg, Fannie – *I Still Dream about You Honey*
 - Jordan, Robert – *Towers of Midnight*
 - King, Stephen – *Full Dark, No Stars*
 - LeHane, Dennis – *Moonlight Mile*
- Martin, Steve – *An Object of Beauty*
 - Morton, Kate – *The Distant Hours*
 - Palin, Sarah – *America by Heart* (nonfic)
 - Patterson, James – *Cross Fire*
 - Pronzini, Bill – *The Hidden*
 - Robb, J.D. – *Indulgence in Death*
 - Robb, J.D. – *The Other Side* (anthology)
 - Roberts, Nora – *Happily Ever After*
 - Shreve, Anita – *Rescue*
 - Tapply, William – *Outwitting Trolls*

December

- Childs, Laura – *Bedeviled Eggs*
 - Clancy, Tom – *Dead or Alive*
 - Clark, Mary Jane – *To Have and To Kill*
 - Griffin, W.E.B. – *The Outlaws*
 - Hoag, Tami – *Secrets to the Grave*
- Hunter, Stephen – *Dead Zero*
 - Koontz, Dean – *What the Night Knows*
 - Krentz, Jayne Ann – *In Too Deep*
 - McCaffrey, Anne – *Catacombs*
 - McCullough, Colleen – *Naked Cruelty*
 - Turtledove, Harry – *Atlantis and Other Places*

January

- Ahern, Cecelia – *The Book of Tomorrow*
 - Crais, Robert – *The Sentry*
 - Higgins, Jack – *The Judas Gate*
 - Hoffman, Alice – *Red Garden*
 - Iles, Greg – *Unwritten Laws*
 - Lescroart, John – *Damage*
 - Meltzer, Brad – *Inner Circle*
- Michaels, Fern – *Home Free*
 - Oates, Joyce Carol – *Give Me Your Heart*
 - Parker, T. Jefferson – *Border Lords*
 - Patterson, James – *Tick Tock*
 - Phillips, Susan Elizabeth – *Call Me Irresistible*
 - Todd, Charles – *A Lonely Death*
 - Woods, Stuart – *Strategic Moves*

Museum Passes: Don’t forget to take advantage of the free and discounted museum passes offered by the New Bedford libraries! All libraries have free passes to the Buttonwood Zoo. The Main Library also has discounted passes to:

- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- Boston Children’s Museum
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museum of Science
- New England Aquarium
- Plimoth Plantation
- Ocean Explorium

Call any library or you can reserve your passes through our Web site!

It’s Show Time!

All the New Bedford libraries have movie licenses and will be bringing you a mix of old and new films for adults and children every month.

November

- Lawler

November 2 @2pm – *Gaslight*
November 16 @2pm – *Everybody’s Fine*
November 20 @3pm – *Pocahontas*
November 23 @5pm – Teen Movie: *The Karate Kid* (2010)
November 30 @2pm – *Hachi*
- Wilks

November 15 @4pm – *Prince of Persia*
November 20 @11am – *How to Train Your Dragon*
- Howland-Green

November 13 @3pm – *Toy Story*
November 27 @2pm – *Iron Man*
- Casa da Saudade Main

November 27 @2pm – *How to Train Your Dragon*
November 17 @6pm – *Toy Story*

December

- Lawler

December 7 @2pm – *On the Waterfront*
December 11 @1pm – *Polar Express*
- Wilks

December 11 @11am – *Robin Hood* (2010)
December 13 @4pm – *Back to the Future*
- Howland-Green

December 11 @2pm – *Deck the Halls*
December 27 @3:30pm – *Santa Buddies*
- Casa da Saudade Main

December 15 @3pm – *Search for Santa Paws*
December 15 @6pm – *Toy Story 2*

Teen Events at the Lawler Library Teen Room

- Nov. 4, 18

Knit Night – Learn how to knit!
6 – 8pm
- Nov. 9

Beading Workshop
4 – 6pm
- Nov. 16

Collage Workshop
4 – 6pm
- Nov. 20

Nature Walk – A walk through Buttonwood Park with Teen Advisory Board Member A.J. Meet at the Teen Room.
3pm
- Nov. 27

Anime/Manga Workshop
1 – 3pm
- Nov. 29

Lego Club
3 – 5pm
- Nov. 30

Drawing Workshop
4 – 6pm

What’s Going On?

Ongoing

- Story hour – Fall story hour runs through December 4
- Wilks – Wednesdays @10:30am
 - Howland-Green – Thursdays @3:30pm
 - Casa – Portuguese story hour – Tuesdays @6pm – Nov. 16, Dec. 7

- Main Library – Saturdays @11am
 - Lawler – Saturdays @1pm

- Matinee Magic – Free movies at every library. See page 6 for movies and times.
- Teen Events at the Lawler Library Teen Room – See page 6.

Exhibits

- “Figuras Portugêsas (Portuguese Figurines)”

November 28 – January 8, 2011; Casa da Saudade Library

Features the Azorean presépio from Lagoa and a private collection of antique and vintage Portuguese Christ Child statues.
- “Norman Rockwell’s Home for the Holidays”

December 11 – January 3, 2011; Main Library, 3rd floor

Features original *Saturday Evening Post* cover tearsheets and includes many of Norman Rockwell’s most memorable holiday images. (See page 4 for more information.)

November	
4, 8, 18, 23	Scrabble Scramble – Come play Scrabble! <div>➤ Lawler Library; 1 – 3pm</div>
9	Lawler Library Book Club – <i>Brick by Brick</i> by Lynn Donohue. (Author will be joining) <div>➤ Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm</div>
13	National Gaming Day – Bring friends and family and play board games! <div>➤ All Libraries; 9am – 5pm</div>
21	Wilks Library Book Club – The book is <i>That Old Cape Magic</i> by Richard Russo. <div>➤ Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm</div>
December	
2	Lecture: “The Silence of the Portuguese” – Author talk with Portuguese-American author Frank Gaspar <div>➤ Casa da Saudade Library; 6pm</div>
	Writers’ Group – To be held at the Casa Library, in order to listen to author Frank Gaspar. <div>➤ Casa da Saudade Library; 6pm</div>
2, 6, 17	Scrabble Scramble – Come play Scrabble! <div>➤ Lawler Library; 1 – 3pm</div>
4	Make a Bear, Give a Bear – Children can make 2 stuffed bears – one for themselves, and one to give to children at the Schwartz Center (fee; sponsored by the Friends of the NBFPL) <div>➤ Main Library; 1 – 4pm</div>
7	Lawler Library Book Club – <i>Listen to the Dead</i> by Randall Pepper. (Author will be joining.) <div>➤ Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm</div>
8	Genealogy Workshop – Learn how to start your family tree! Sign up by calling Wilks. <div>➤ Wilks Library; 4pm</div>
9	Make a Bear, Give a Bear (fee; sponsored by the Friends of the NBFPL) <div>➤ Main Library; 5 – 7pm</div>
21	Wilks Library Book Club – The book is <i>The Postmistress</i> by Sarah Blake. <div>➤ Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm</div>

Hours & Locations

Main Library 613 Pleasant St. 508-991-6275 TTY: 508-991-6258	
Monday:	9am – 9pm
Tuesday:	9am – 9pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 9pm
Thursday:	9am – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 12:30pm
Saturday:	9am – 5pm

Genealogy Department 3 rd floor of Main Library 508-991-6276	
Monday:	9am – 9pm
Tuesday:	9am – 9pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 9pm
Thursday:	9am – 5pm
Friday:	9am – 12:30pm
Saturday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Art Room 3 rd floor of Main Library 508-979-1787	
Monday:	closed
Tuesday:	1pm – 5pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 5pm
Thursday:	1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 12:30pm
Saturday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Casa da Saudade 58 Crapo St. 508-991-6218	Mon: 10am – 6pm Tue: 12pm – 8pm Wed: 10am – 6pm
Wilks 1911 Acushnet Ave. 508-991-6214	Thu: 12pm – 8pm Fri: closed Sat: 9am – 5pm

Lawler 745 Rockdale Ave. 508-991-6216	Mon: 10am – 6pm Tue: 12pm – 8pm Wed: closed
Howland-Green 3 Rodney French Blvd. 508-991-6212	Thu: 12pm – 8pm Fri: 10am – 6pm Sat: 9am – 5pm

Bookmobile
The Bookmobile visits schools, neighborhoods and adult centers throughout New Bedford. For the Bookmobile schedule, please call 508-991-6214.

Writers’ Group

Just a reminder that Wilks Branch Library’s Writers’ Group continues to meet monthly. All writers are welcome! It doesn’t matter your level of experience, whether you’re a beginner or have been at it for a few years. It doesn’t matter what you write. Here you’ll find the kind of help and support that comes only from other writers.

The most important thing is getting feedback on your work. Writing is solitary and it’s hard to know if what you’re doing is any good. Oh, your mother says it is, but mothers aren’t impartial. Other writers are. A group like this can be invaluable.

Additionally, members of the group learn writing techniques and exercises, and publishing tips.

The group is led by librarian Mary Kruger, a published author of romance and mystery novels. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 6-7:30 PM.

December’s meeting, on December 2, will be held at the Casa da Saudade Library, where author Frank Gaspar will read from and discuss his works.

Mr. Gaspar is a noted Portuguese-American author of award-winning books and poetry. His most recent novel, *Stealing Fatima*, was chosen as a MassBook of the Year in Fiction.

On January 6, the Writers’ Group will meet as usual at Wilks.

For more information or to register, call Wilks at 508-991-6214. We’re looking forward to seeing you!

Trustees of the New Bedford Free Public Library: Mayor Scott Lang, Carl Cruz, Rev. Constantine S. Bebis, Mary-Ellen Bergeron, Lee Blake, Dr. John Fletcher, Elsie R. Fraga, James L. Henry, Helen Rogers, Dr. Joseph Silva, Jr.

Cut here for an Hours & Locations bookmark